

## Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00  
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
AID-05 EB-07 EPG-02 TRSE-00 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01  
COME-00 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 SCS-03  
SCA-01 /114 W

-----182243Z 070677 /21/44

O R 171220Z MAY 87  
FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 893  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L LILONGWE 0743

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TEXT GARBLED THROUGHOUT

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, EFIN, MI, US  
SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS: US VOTE ON IBRD LOAN TO MALAWI

REF: A. STATE 106868 B. STATE 107497

1. RETEL WAS NOTE MADE AVAILABLE TO ME IN ABIDJAN, BUT IN ANY CASE,  
I WOULD HAVE WANTED MATTER TO WAIT UNTIL MY RETURN TO LILONGWE.

). A SUBSTANTIAL (BUT AS YET UNKNOWN) NUMBER OK POLITICAL DETAINEES  
WERE RELEASED ON OCCASION KAMUZU DAY AS WE HAD HOPED BUT  
REGRETTABLY FUNSANI WAS APPARENTLY NOT AMONG THEM. SINCE  
YESTERDAY

I HAVE BEEN TRYING UNSUCCESSFULLY TO SPEAK WITH COMMISSIONER OF  
POLICE ON THIS POINT AND WILL CONTINUE THIS EFFORT. HAVE LEARNED  
THAT FORMER PRINCIPAL CHANCELLOR UNIVERSITY, PETER MWANZA, AND  
FORMER REGISTRAR THIS INSTITUTION, JOHN BANDA, HAVE BEEN RELEASED  
AS WELL AS OTHERS FROM UNIVERSITY.

3. BRITISH AID OFFICIALS ARE PRESENTLY HERE NEGOTITATING 3-YEAR  
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BILATERAL ASSISTANCE PACKAGE. LAST NIGHT ASKED LEADER OF GROUP  
WHETHER UKG HAD OR WOULD MENTION HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN  
CONNECTION WITH THIS SUBJECT. HE REPLIED THAT QUESTION HAD INDEED  
BEEN RAISED AND DISCUSSED IN LONDON AND HAD BEEN DECIDED NOT TO  
RAISE MATTER WITH GOM IN VIEW OF RELEASE OF MANY POLITICAL

DETAINEES OVER PAST 7 MONTHS AND DROP OFF IN NEW DETENTIONS. I LET HIM KNOW WE WOULD BE APPRECIATIVE IF HE COULD FIND OPPORTUNITY AT LEAST TO MENTION TO GOM OFFICIALS THAT UKG HAD HAD CONCERNS RE HUMAN RIGHTS AND WAS PLEASED NOTE RECENT IMPROVEMENT IN SITUATION HERE.

4. RE DEMARCHE, I WOULD PROPOSE A SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT APPROACH MORE IN LINE WITH THINKING EXPRESSED OUR PARM. I HAVE ASKED FOR APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT BANDA FOR LATER THIS WEEK AS HE IS DEPARTING FOR LONDON ON MAY 21 AND WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL END OF JUNE. I HAVE BASED REQUEST ON FACT I WILL BE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATION AND LEAVE WHILE HE IS AWAY AND WANTED SEEK HIS VIEW ON DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS HE MIGHT HAVE RE RECENT ABIDJAN MEETING. WOULD USE OCCASION ALSO TO MAKE FOLLOWING POINTS.

A. THAT U.S. RECENTLY VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE IDA WATAR PROJECT LOAN DESPITE CONCERNS EXPRESSED REGARDING THE AROITRARY ARREST AND DETENTION WITHOUT CHARGE OF PERSONS IN MALAWI BECAUSE WE HAVE NOTED WITH SATISFACTION THAT MANY DETAINEES HAVE BEEN RELEASED FOLLOWING THE ARREST OF MUWOLO AND GUEDE.

B. THAT WE HOPE VERY STRONGLY THAT PRESIDENT BANDA WILL BE ABLE TO CONTINUE THIS COURSE KNOWING HOW FIRM AND SECURE HIS PERSON AND POSITION ARE IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF HIS PEOPLE.

C. THAT WHILE IN WASHINGTON I WOULD WANT TO SEEK VIGOROUSLY OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONTINUE US SUPPORT FOR MALAWI IN INTERNATIONAL LENDING INSTITUTIONS AND FOR FURTHER BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO CONTRIBUTE TO HIS PRINCIPAL GOAL OF RAISING THE LIVING STANDARDS OF THE ORDINARY MALAWIAN CITIZEN, AND THAT A FURTHER AMEPUORATION  
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OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION WOULD BE A MOST IMPORTANT HELPIN THIS REGARD.

D. FINALLY, I WOULD RAISE CASE OF FPFSA NI (THIS I DID ONE BEFORE SO IT IS NOT NEW SUBJECT) AND TELL HIM, IN MATTER OF FACT WAY, WHAT WE HAVE LEARNED AND HOW WE FEEL IN VIEW OF FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM. I WOULD BE CAREFUL NOT TO IMPUGN COMMISSIONER IN ANY WAY AS FROM EXPERIENCE WE KNOW HE IS CAPABLE OF CONCOCTING STORY FOR PRESIDENT WHICH WOULD BLACKEN FUNSANI IRREDEEMABLY.

5. WILL PROCEED AS ABOVE UNLESS YOU PERCEITE OBJECTIONS. SHOULD I NOT BE ABLE TO SEE PRESIDENT, I WILL MAKE DEMAJCHE TO PERMSEC EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

6. RE REFTTEL PARA ) B, WOULD NOTE THAT FEW OF ANY JEHOVAH'S

WITNESSES HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN PAST YEAR OR MORE AND ALMOST ALL EARLIER DETAINED, IF NOT ALL, ARE FREE. IN VIEW OF CURRENT GOM EFFORTS TO DEFUSE AND PLACATE ISSUE, BELIEVE IT NOT WISE TO MENTION IT SPECIFICALLY. ALSO, WITH RELEASES REPORTED PARA 2, COMMENT RE LARGE NUMBERS OF DETAINEES STILL REMAINING IN JAIL MAY NOT BE ACCURATE, AT LEAST IN RELATIVE TERMS. WE ARE NOW TRYING COME UP WITH ESTIMATE ON THIS, WORKING TOGETHER WITH BRITISH.

7. AS TO LIKELY GOM (READ BANBR) REACTION AND CHANCES OF FAVORABLE IMPACT, PAST LIMITED EXPERIENCE WOULD SUGGEST AT BEST A NON-COMMITTAL INITIAL REACTION AND AT WORST AN ANGRY BLAST WITH INSTRUCTIONS STAY OUT OF INTERNAL MATTERS. BUT OVER TIME SOME GOOD MIGHT RESULT AND I BELIEVE IT WORTH A TRY. WITH RECENT ASSISTANCE OR FAVORABLE OUTLOOK FOR SOME FROM CAVEDA, GREAT BRITAIN, WEST GERMANY, ADB, WORLD BANK, THE EEC, UNDP AND OTHERS, U.S. ASSISTANCE IS NOT AS BIG LEVER AS ONCE WAS BUT AID RELATIONSHIP STILL HIGHLY VALUED BY GOM.  
STEVENSON

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NNN

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Expiration:**  
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**Reference:** 77 STATE 106868, 77 STATE 107497  
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**Review Transfer Date:**  
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**TAGS:** EFIN, SHUM, MI, US, IBRD, (FUNSANI)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009